

## REMARKS

Applicant has provided the above amended claims in order to advance the subject application to allowance noting that the substance of former claim 1 has been merged into claim 2, thus, claim 1 has been cancelled.

Previously provided independent claim 3 has been amended to now include the substance of former claim 4 therein. Former claim 4 has thus been cancelled.

Claims 5 and 6 now depend from independent claims 2 and 3 respectively.

The balance of the remaining set of claims is provided hereinabove and have the status as indicated at the beginning of each claim.


New claims 17-24 are added to recite both novel and non-obvious features of newly amended claims 2 and 3 directly and the majority of instances.

Each of the independent claims 2 and 3 are now limited to a barrier layer having a structure: water repellant layer/dense layer/water repellent layer (claim 1 and claim 2); dense layer/water repellant layer/dense layer (claim 1 and claim 3).

These claims set forth the novel and unobvious features for which Applicant submits that patentable subject matter is recited in the independent claims and of course the claims dependent thereon.

Respectfully Submitted,

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, Mail Stop: AF

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